



July 16, 2015

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Honorable Councilmember Mike Bonin
Los Angeles City Council
District 11
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via email

Honorable Councilmember Bonin:

The Westchester Town Center BID has long been opposed to food carts and other forms of street vending. We do not believe that street vendors are an appropriate use within the Westchester business district. We are writing to request that you exercise all of the powers of your office to prohibit any street vending or its legalization for the Westchester community.

Such vendors are not fair to local businesses that must pay taxes, utilities, and abide by the many regulations that are attendant to their business, including inspections. Legalization of street vending raises questions about health, safety, increased sidewalk congestion, and trash. Obviously, the City has no realistic plan or capacity for regulating out of control street vending; there are an estimated 50,000 illegal street vendors currently operating in the City.

We understand that some Los Angeles City Council Districts may desire such vendors. Fine. If that be the desire let those Districts establish special zones or permits that are not applicable to our area.

We also suggest that the City establish regulations allowing its business improvement districts to be part of a City-wide comprehensive street vendor regulation network so that willful violations do not arise in an environment in which diminished City resources do not permit effective enforcement.

Thank you for your attention in support of Westchester.

Sincerely,

Karen Dial
President

Donald R. Duckworth
Executive Director

C: Eric Garcetti, Mayor
Coalition to Save Small Business